

DCI Speech to
US Senate Youth Program
1510, 6 February 1979
CIA Auditorium

Welcome to our campus. You know this really is a campus in many ways it is very much like an academic institution. Unfortunately we have to lock off a lot of it, you can't go wandering around it. That is because we have a lot of people who work here who don't work here. That is they don't own up to working here so we can't let visitors go wandering around because you might meet somebody who isn't here, and that would be embarrassing if you met them somewhere else and found that they were there.

Now seriously, we are like a campus because we do two things in the Central Intelligence Agency. We collect information and we analyze it and do something with it. Do research on it. I would like to just, very briefly, and I am afraid my time is limited with you today because when you are a Washington bureaucrat you can't control your own life, and somebody set up a meeting today at three o'clock that I am supposed to be at downtown. I hadn't counted on that I wanted to spend the full time with you here, but I have got two good-for-nothing spies up here who will talk to you instead.

We collect information that the Country believes it needs in order to live and help preserve our way of life and the free life around the world because there are so many countries in the world today that are not open societies like ours. You can know almost

everything you need to know about the United States by coming here and living, working, reading the newspapers, watching television and picking up the scientific magazines and reading all our innermost military secrets and everything else. At least you can understand where the United States is going. Are we really bent on a big military program because we want to go conquer people? Are we going to go out and exploit the advantages around the world that we might be able to find, and so on. You can get that tenor by being in America. You know and I know you cannot get that by being in the Soviet Union. You can't get it from Pravada, you can't pick it up from Soviet television, your not allowed to talk with the people on the streets, you're followed if you go down the streets very much at all. So, it is important to our country that we go and get information that will help us understand what is happening, what's going on around the world so that we are not caught by surprise. We as a nation, whether we like it or not, have a great responsibility to the world as well as to ourselves and we are so blessed by having freedom in this country that we have got to take reasonable precautions to defend it for ourselves and for others.

So we get information. How? We get it by three different techniques. One - the traditional spy. We go find people in other countries who are willing to tell us things we want to know. It is dangerous, costly, can be embarrassing but it is sometimes important because the human contact can tell you a lot more about what is going on in another country than can the other two ways to collect information. The first of the other two ways is what we call signals intelligence. While we are sitting here, right in this auditorium there are all kinds of waves going through the air here. You know as well as I if you had your pocket radio and you stuck it out here you would get a radio station. That is because there is a radio wave going through here. If you have a television antenna put it up here the same thing. Well, military youth radars they would come through here to some extent. We all use communications, telegraph, microwave, various means of communicating through the air. So, anyplace you can stick an antenna you can find something and if you stick an antenna in the right place you will find the right thing and that is a very sophisticated art and we are very good at it. We pick up a lot of information that is passing through the airwaves all around the world. I have over-simplified it but that is really the essence of it. Thirdly, we take photographs. We take photographs from airplanes; we take photographs from automobiles; we take photographs from ships; we take photographs from satellites and we gain a great deal of information there. Remember, when you are listening to signals when you are looking at a photograph you are usually finding out something that happened in the past. When you are talking to a human being

you can ask him what is your country going to do tomorrow. So these complement each other, they play together and one of my major responsibilities is to be sure that all of the assets of the United States for doing these three things are brought together. Some of them are done by the Department of Defense, some of them are done by the Central Intelligence Agency, some by the State Department and so on through the Government. We have got to bring it all together.

Now what happens when we get all this information? That is when it really is like a university campus research department. We have large numbers of people in this building who sit there and take this information that was obtained by one of these difficult means and brings it together and tries to say to the decisionmakers of our country, not us in the intelligence game, but the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, and of course the President. What does this mean that they sent this signal yesterday? What does this mean that this picture shows that they are doing this or building that, what does it mean that this agent tells us that their plan is this, and he asks is he really for real? We have to evaluate that. We have to say yes, we think he is for real because this photograph corroborates it, or this signal we picked up tells us that is the kind of thing they are doing.

That is of course very risky when you start interpreting because no intelligence is so explicit that you can just take the raw intelligence and say that's it boss that's what you need to know. You have always got to evaluate the source, you have got to put it in context of all the other things that went on. I can tell you that makes this a very exciting place. We have to have people with all sorts of academic disciplines here. Economists, political scientists, psychologists, chemists, just almost any one of the things you would study in a high school and a university we have specialists on here so that we can look at what this information is and correctly interpret it and give our policy makers in government some idea of what they are going to be facing. It is very important to our country that we maintain this capability. I can assure you that the Central Intelligence Agency is strong, healthy and doing a superb job for our country. We need your support and understanding, as you go on and assume higher and higher and more important positions in our country because the future is going to be with you and I am pleased that you are here today to get some initial understanding of what we do and the importance of it to our country and I hope that you will ask Mr. Hitz and Mr. Hetu lots of questions so they can answer specifically the things that are on your mind today. Thank you for being here. Congratulations for being part of this wonderful experience that the Hearsts have made possible for you and good luck to you. Thank you.

